

*Morning Sermon January 4, 2015*

*“Sad, Sad Sadducees”*

*Luke 20:27-40*

*I. Who were the Sadducees? :1*

- 1. They claimed to be descendants of Zadok; the Priest who served under both David and Solomon, he was one of the men who anointed Solomon –*

<sup>32</sup> **And King David said, "Call to me Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada." So they came before the king.**

<sup>33</sup> **The king also said to them, "Take with you the servants of your lord, and have Solomon my son ride on my own mule, and take him down to Gihon. <sup>34</sup> "There let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him king over Israel; and blow the horn, and say, `Long live King Solomon!' (1Kings 1:32-34 NKJ)**

- 2. Based on this relationship to Zadok in Jesus' day they controlled the Temple. They were the ones who benefitted most from money changing and selling of animals in the Temple, which probably was their main, if not only, motivation for confronting Jesus, He was hurting their pocketbooks. According to Josephus they had become quite corrupt –*

*“while the Sadducees are able to persuade none but the rich,” Josephus*

- 3. They “deny that there is a resurrection” - :27*

<sup>8</sup> **For Sadducees say that there is no resurrection-- and no angel or spirit; but the Pharisees confess both. (Acts 23:8 NKJ)**

*These were not spiritual men, they did not believe in angels, demons, Heaven or Hell, they did not believe in any kind of eternal judgment or reward, or that God even cared about whether we were good or evil.*

*They based this belief on two things:*

- A. A presupposition of anti-supernaturalism*
- B. A denial of all the Bible except for the five Books of Moses: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy*

*They claimed these Books did not mention an afterlife or resurrection or any kind of judgment or rewards other than what we have here and now.*

*II. Sadducee-like people still exist and are NUMEROUS in America, today, in 2015 –*

- 1. Many Churches, Colleges, and Denominations of Christians which historically had a vital faith in God and practiced it, have declined to anti-supernaturalism / politics with a religious mask.*

*“The God of the Old Testament is arguably the most unpleasant character in all fiction: jealous and proud of it; a petty, unjust, unforgiving control-freak; a vindictive, bloodthirsty ethnic cleanser; a misogynistic, homophobic, racist, infanticidal, genocidal, filicidal, pestilential, megalomaniacal, sadomasochistic, capriciously malevolent bully.” — Richard Dawkins Atheist*

*You would expect such a statement from a rabid atheist, yet he started a talk in a New England Church with it and people stood up and cheered!*

*Harvard College started as a school for pastors / Yale was Jonathan Edwards School, these were stanchly Christian Schools, established for the promotion of Christian Faith, I looked at the current issue of the Harvard Crimson (online magazine) --- What was the most read article?*

**Most Read -**

- [Fifteen Hottest Freshmen '17: Date Spots](#)
- [Law School Found in Violation of Title IX after Years-Long Probe](#)
- [The Top 10 Stories of 2014](#)
- [Ex-Harvard Student Brittany Smith Sentenced to Three Years in Prison](#)
- [Video: Top 10 Stories That Shaped 2014](#)

- 2. What we learn from this is that it is simply part of sinful human nature to decline, to go backward, to lose the faith of our fathers –*

### III. What was / is Jesus' Answer to the Sad, Sad Sadducees?

#### 1. The wife married to seven brothers question –

*It is a Scripture twisting, majoring on the minors, just plain stupid question, it is based on Deuteronomy 25:5-6*

<sup>5</sup> "If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies and has no son, the widow of the dead man shall not be married to a stranger outside the family; her husband's brother shall go in to her, take her as his wife, and perform the duty of a husband's brother to her. <sup>6</sup> "And it shall be that the firstborn son which she bears will succeed to the name of his dead brother, that his name may not be blotted out of Israel. (Deuteronomy 25:5-6 NKJ)

- A. *The purpose of this law was to honor a brother, honor within families*
- B. *It has absolutely nothing to do with the resurrection, or life after death etc...*
- C. *The Sadducees present an imagined problem, assuming marriage would continue in a Heaven they do not actually believe exists.*

#### 2. Jesus' Answer speaks to more than just this one question –

<sup>34</sup> And Jesus answered and said to them, "The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage. <sup>35</sup> "But those who are counted worthy to attain that age, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage;

<sup>36</sup> "nor can they die anymore, for they are equal to the angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection. <sup>39</sup> Then some of the scribes answered and said, "Teacher, You have spoken well."

<sup>40</sup> But after that they dared not question Him anymore. (Luke 20:34-40 NKJ)

- A. *There is no marriage in Heaven - :35*
- B. *We get to Heaven by being "counted worthy to attain that age" and "the resurrection from the dead."*
  - *Being counted worthy comes through God's grace*
  - *Being counted worthy, attaining the resurrection is something worth striving for –*

<sup>7</sup> But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.

<sup>8</sup> Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ

<sup>9</sup> and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the

righteousness which is from God by faith; <sup>10</sup> that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, <sup>11</sup> if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. <sup>12</sup> Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. (Philippians 3:7-12 NKJ)

C. *Once in Heaven, we cannot die anymore - :36*

D. *Scripture teaches life after death, even those passages that Sadducees thought did not -*

<sup>37</sup> "But even Moses showed in the burning bush passage that the dead are raised, when he called the Lord the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." <sup>38</sup> "For He is not the God of the dead but of the living, for all live to Him."

*See also –*

<sup>26</sup> And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, That in my flesh I shall see God, (Job 19:26 NKJ)

<sup>9</sup> Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope. <sup>10</sup> For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. <sup>11</sup> You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore. (Psalm 16:9-11 NKJ)

### IV. We are the LIVING when we Live for God and the things of God –

<sup>33</sup> "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. (Matthew 6:33 NKJ)

<sup>NKJ</sup> Colossians 3:1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

<sup>2</sup> Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

<sup>3</sup> For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (Colossians 3:1-3 NKJ)

<sup>3</sup> "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. (John 17:3 NKJ)

*Sadducees claimed the name of Zadok; but they did not have the LIFE to match Zadok - <sup>NKJ</sup> Revelation 3:1 ... "I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. (Revelation 3:1 NKJ)*

*Arnold A. Brevick*